



Office of the Staff Judge Advocate LEGAL SERVICES U.S. Army Japan and I Corps (Fwd)

Passport for Minor Under Age 16

Whether you are applying for a government or tourist passport, the rules remain the same. Generally, both parents must be present to sign the passport forms. However, if one parent is not available due to deployment or any other reason, the unavailable parent may submit a DS Form 3053. The parent's signature must be notarized on that form. If the other parent is not available due to a separation, divorce, abandonment, etc., the applying parent will still be required to complete the DS Form 3053, but must also explain the circumstances. The statement must explain in detail the non-

applying parent's unavailability, recent efforts made to contact the non-applying parent, and the reasons the non-applying parent is unable or unwilling to sign the form. The detail statement of special circumstances does not require a notary.

The DS Form 3053 may be downloaded online at: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/80106.pdf>

For assistance, applicants are encouraged to contact the Legal Assistance Office at 263-4698.

Recently Married?

If you recently married a local Japanese citizen and plan to bring your spouse to your upcoming CONUS assignment, there are a few steps required to ensure a smooth transition through USCIS stateside.

Your first step is to file an immigrant visa petition, Form I-130, for your eligible spouse. You must prove that you have resided in Japan for more than six months prior to personally filing the petition with the Immigrant Visa Unit at the U.S. Embassy.

Once your petition has been accepted, your spouse must schedule an appointment to complete the visa application process or you may make an appointment for the interview on-line. Interviews are conducted on Mondays only. If Monday falls on a US or Japanese holiday, the interview is scheduled on the next business day.

The documents required for the interview may include passport, birth certificate, application Form DS 230 Part II, Affidavit of Support (Form I-864), Medical Examination, Police

Certificate, Court and Prison Records, military discharge records, front view photos, U.S. mailing Address and telephone number, self-addressed, pre-paid envelope, and application fee (separate from petition filing fee). If any original documents have been submitted with the petition, you are not required to bring again (i.e. birth certificate).

You are encouraged to obtain certified copies of original documents at the Legal Assistance Office before submitting the petition.

English translations of all foreign language documents are required. Any foreign language document must be accompanied by a full English translation that the translator has certified as complete and correct. The translator must certify that he/she is competent to translate the foreign language into English. It is not necessary to have the translation notarized.

Check the date and time of your interview because late arrivals will be cancelled and only applicants with appointments will be admitted.

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FINEST MEN
AND WOMEN

If you have any
questions, comments,
or suggestions, please
contact the Legal
Assistance Office at
263-4698.



Accident with Gov Vehicle

If you are involved in a car accident with a US government vehicle in which the driver of the government vehicle was responsible for the accident or who caused any damage to your vehicle, you can file a claim for the expense of repairing your privately owned vehicle.

In order to file that claim, however, you will need certain documents and information. First, you will need to complete Standard Form (SF) 95. This is the foundation for filing a claim and will include your basic information. It, along with all other publicly available government forms, can be found by searching on Google, Yahoo, or any other widely used search engine online.

Next, you will need to get a repair estimate from an automotive shop, photo-

graphs of the damage to your vehicle, including your license plate number, taken by you or MPs, and a statement from you explaining how the accident happened. Also required is a copy of the MP report, so if you gave a statement to the MPs explaining how the accident occurred, another statement is not needed.

In addition, you will also need to provide copies of your military vehicle registration, vehicle title, Japanese vehicle registration, and copies of any JCI and private insurance policies for the vehicle. If you bought the vehicle recently, particularly from someone else stationed at Camp Zama, you will also need to include a bill of sale. If that is unavailable, please include the purchase price and purchase month and year of the damaged vehicle.

Ask your Tax Advisor

Question: I am a DA civilian working here in Japan. Do I qualify for the Earned Income Credit (EIC)?

Answer: No. While service members stationed abroad can get an EIC if they otherwise meet the income qualifications, civilians and contractors who work or are stationed abroad cannot take advantage of the EIC unless they (and their spouse, if filing jointly) have lived in the United States more than half the year.

Question: My wife is a DoD civilian and is getting ready to deploy to Afghanistan. Will she qualify for the combat zone tax exclusion?

Answer: No. The combat zone exclusion only applies to uniformed members of the Armed Forces. Civilian pay in combat zone positions is usually substantially increased to make up for not being eligible for the combat zone exclusion.